

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /076 W

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R 101140Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3265

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: ARAFAT IN EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 3562

SUMMARY: ARAFAT AND FAHMY HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT SARG, PLO AND GOE SHOULD MEET AT END OF APRIL. DUE TO "PRESS OF BUSINESS" FAHMY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO DAMASCUS FOR MEETING, BUT KHADDAM IS WELCOME HERE. TRIPARTITE SESSION WILL ALLEGEDLY PREPARE WAY FOR SUBSEQUENT QUADRIpartite MEETING, INCLUDING GOJ. ALL OF ARAFAT'S ENTOURAGE ON THIS TRIP ARE FROM FATAH. GOE IS STILL URGING USG DIALOGUE WITH MODERATE PALESTINIANS (I.E. FATAH).
END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING HIS MEETINGS WITH SADAT, FAHMY, AND OTHER SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS APRIL 7 (REFTEL), ARAFAT MET FOLLOWING DAY WITH VICE PRESIDENT SHAFT'I, MININT SALIM, ASU HEAD GHANIM,
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MINWAY GAMASY AND ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD. WE UNDERSTAND HE HAS ALSO HAD TWO UNPUBLICIZED MEETINGS WITH HAYKAL, ONE IMMEDIATELY

FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN CAIRO APRIL 6.

2. ACCORDING TO AKHBAR, ARAFAT WAS ACCOMPANIED TO ALL HIS APRIL 8 MEETINGS BY FATAH'S ABU NAZIN WHO, ADDRESSES MAY RECALL, IS FORMER HEAD OF RASD (FATAH'S INTELLIGENCE WING). GENERAL TONE OF REPORTING FOLLOWING THIS SERIES OF MEETINGS HAS BEEN THAT CHIEF TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CONFRONTATION POWERS, WHICH ARE IDENTIFIED AS EGYPT, SYRIA, AND PLO. AHRAM APRIL 9 PREDICTS SEVERAL POLITICAL STEPS WILL OCCUR INVOLVING THESE THREE, BEGINNING WITH ARAFAT/ASAD TALKS IN DAMASCUS. ARAFAT HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO MAKE STATEMENTS TO PRESS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR EGYPT'S SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE.

3. ACCORDING TO USAMA AL-BAZ, FAHMY'S AIDE FOR PALESTINIAN LIAISON, FAHMY AGREED WITH ARAFAT TO HOLD TRIPARTITE MEETING (SARG, GOE, PLO) TOWARD END OF APRIL. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO JORDAN AND QUADRIPARTITE NOTION, AL-BAZ REPLIED PURPOSE OF TRIPARTITE MEETING WOULD BE TO PREPARE GROUND FOR QUADRIPARTITE MEETING. EMBOFF NOTED RELATIVELY PRO-HASHEMITE PRONOUNCEMENTS BY ARAFAT AND ABU IYAD (AMMAN 2308) AND ASKED AGAIN HOW GOJ FITTED INTO UPCOMING SCENARIO. AGAIN EVADING QUESTION, AL-BAZ SAID TRIPARTITE MEETING COULD NOT BE IN DAMASCUS BECAUSE OF LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL VISITORS FAHMY WILL HAVE TO RECEIVE IN CAIRO AT END OF APRIL, AND THAT IF KHADDAM WANTED TO COME TO CAIRO HE WAS WELCOME.

4. COMMENT: AL-BAZ WAS PLEASED THAT ARAFAT HAD FINALLY COME TO CAIRO BUT WAS NOTABLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IDEA OF TRIPARTITE MEETING. FAHMY, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN TRYING TO PUT OFF QUADRIPARTITE SESSION WHICH SARG HAD URGED BEFORE ASWAN/JERUSALEM SHUTTLE. AL-BAZ REMARKED THAT ARABS MUST GET INTO GEAR TO DETERMINE UNIFIED POSITION ON QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, BUT HE DID NOT SUGGEST THAT TRIPARTITE MEETING WAS BEST PLACE TO DO THIS. IT IS TRUE THAT TEN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO BETWEEN MID-APRIL AND MID-MAY, BUT FAHMY'S ALLEGED EXCUSE THAT PRESS OF BUSINESS KEEPS HIM FROM SYRIA SOUNDS RATHER SUSPECT.

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5. WE HAVE BEEN INTERESTED TO SEE THAT ALL PLO FUNCTIONARIES WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS WITH ARAFAT ARE FROM FATAH, AND THREE ARE FROM FATAH GENERAL COMMAND (ARAFAT, ABU MAZIN, AND ABU IYAD). WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY BEIRUT'S VIEW ON WHAT SEEMS TO US UNUSUAL ABSENCE OF REP FROM ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION. ON THIS SUBJECT, AL-BAZ REMARKED ON CONSIDERABLE SHIFT ON ABU IYAD'S GENERAL ATTITUDE, STRESSING THAT HE IS AN INTELLIGENT MAN WHO IS BECOMING "MODERATE".

6. AS IS HIS WONT, AL-BAZ URGED REASSESSMENT OF USG POLICY

TOWARD DIALOGUE WITH MODERATE PALESTINIANS, NOTING THAT MFA IS
CERTAIN OUR AGREEMENT TO TALK TO PLO NOW WOULD BE IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTION TO GOE EFFORTS PREVENT RADICALIZATION OF
PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. GOE IS WORKING HARD TO ENCOURAGE
MODERATES (I.E., FATAH), HE ADDED, BUT LATTER ARE FORCED BY
OUR SILENCE INTO ARMS OF SOVIETS, A FACT WHICH BODES ILL
FOR SUCCESS OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.
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